



GEORGE H. RYAN
SECRETARY OF STATE

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62756

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY
300 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1796
(217) 782-2994

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JUN - 5 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

May 1, 1996

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. -- Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: FCC Docket # 96-45
In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board Universal Service**

Dear Mr. Hundt:

The Universal Service provisions being addressed by the Federal-State Joint Board are of vital interest to the Illinois library community. How the needs of schools and libraries are addressed will determine the parameters of information access during many years to come.

Under the office of George H. Ryan, Secretary of State and State Librarian, the Illinois State Library coordinates a network of over 3,000 libraries (academic, public, school and special) that work together in sharing resources in meeting the information needs of people throughout our diverse state. This Illinois Library & Information Network (ILLINET) is a nationally recognized model of cooperation and ensures that the state's citizens receive the best possible library and information service through resource sharing. However, telecommunications charges incurred from electronic networking are a major barrier to information access for library patrons particularly in rural areas. Over 125 public libraries in the state have annual budgets of less than \$25,000. Telecommunications costs of hundreds of dollars per month to access electronic information are much too expensive for these libraries and others. Despite making computers and technology training available to libraries through various Illinois State Library grant programs, computer usage is limited because of the access charges.

I urge the Federal-State Joint Board to implement the recommendations submitted to the Federal Communications Commission by the American Library Association in early April. This national association representing over 58,000 librarians, vendors, and library governing boards, focused on the following key points:


- All telecommunications services should be made available to libraries at a discount
- Library discounts should be made available at the lower of either (1) the lowest price offered to any customer, or (2) the total Service Long Run Incremental Cost
- Libraries in rural and high cost areas should receive further discounts

George H. Ryan
Secretary of State

The Illinois State Library has also been working with other state education agencies in addressing telecommunications issues. The joint comments submitted in early May by the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois State Library, Illinois Community College Board, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education to the Federal-State Joint Board are also important guidelines as the services available at special rates to libraries and schools are determined.

I urge the Federal-State Joint Board to implement rulemaking that enables libraries and schools to be full partners in electronic networking in the information age.

Sincerely,



Bridget L. Lamont
Director
Illinois State Library

BLL/admn

LYONS PUBLIC LIBRARY

4209 Joliet Avenue
Lyons, IL 60534-1597

Phone: (708) 447-3577
Fax: (708) 447-3589

2 May 1996

Reference: Docket 96-45
Universal Service

TO: Reed Hundt-Chairman
Federal Communications Commission

FROM: Maureen Kiener-President
Lyons Library Board of Trustees

Dear Mr Chairman,

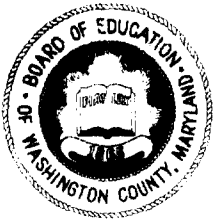
Our board and our staff urge your support of our library and of all libraries and schools in our country.

We endorse the American Library Association statement made earlier this month on the legislation allowing affordable rates for schools and libraries.

Libraries are the information businesses of the country and with tight budgets and high costs we need all the help we can get to help our community.

Thank you.

Maureen Kiener



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

P.O. BOX 730, COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND 21741-0730 ■ PHONE: 791-4000

B. MARIE BYERS
Board Member

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May 2, 1996

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
FCC Chairman and Joint Board Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 826
Washington, D.C. 20554

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JUN - 5 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a 26 year local school board member and former elementary teacher from Washington County, Maryland. I would like to urge the Federal-State Joint Board and the Federal Communications Commission to adopt rules that fully and aggressively implement the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for schools and libraries. I also support the comments filed by the National School Boards Association in this extraordinarily important issue. Please include my letter in the formal record (CC Docket No. 96-45).

I urge the FCC to include a range of telecommunications services for deep discounts that will give my district more affordable and fair access to the Internet as well as to interactive, voice, data and video capability necessary for distance learning. It is also important that these services be provided directly to all classrooms, where learning takes place. Please address the affordability needs of both the capital expenses of services and the ongoing costs.

Washington County, Maryland, was the first K-12 school district to use instructional television for classroom learning. We began the ITV instructional service in the late fifties. In the seventies we began sharing our lessons with other school systems. In the eighties we began interactive telecasting lessons between two different high schools (8 total). We look forward to expanding our telecommunications capabilities to each classroom K-12 with your help.

Technology in the classroom is critical to ensuring that our children can succeed in a high-tech world marketplace. I strongly urge the Commission to adopt rules that will help bring the broadest range of educational technology to our schoolchildren, K-12.

Sincerely,

Marie Byers
26 Year School Board Member of Washington
County
National School Boards Association Director

1-301-733-8999

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DATE 6/8/96

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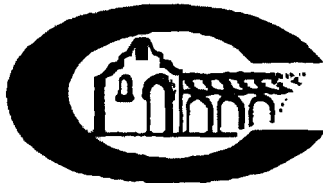
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CREIGHTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

learning today for a new tomorrow

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CC Docket No. 96-45

The Honorable Reed Hunt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

JUN - 5 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Hunt:

I am the school board President in the Creighton Elementary School District in Phoenix, Arizona, and I am writing to urge the Federal-State Joint Board and the FCC to adopt rules that aggressively implement the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for school districts and libraries. I support the comments filed by the National School Boards Association as regards this issue. Please include this letter in the formal record.

I would like to urge the FCC to include in their plans comprehensive discounts for a range of telecommunications services that will give the Creighton District more affordable access to Internet services, as well as for voice, data and video capabilities necessary for distance learning possibilities. Through our experiences with technology use in our district, we have learned that these services must be provided directly to the classroom, where it can be integrated into the classroom curriculum where it can most effectively impact instructional delivery. I encourage the Commission to not only consider the initial capital expenses of such services, but the ongoing costs of support and training as well.

The Creighton School District is located in east central Phoenix, Arizona, and has seven urban schools serving 8000 students in grades K-8. Our disadvantaged students represent a segment of our nation's population that frequently have little hope of achieving the "American Dream" but who have the potential to succeed in our universities and workplaces given appropriate and meaningful educational opportunities. Recognizing that we needed to update, expand and strengthen the use of technology for instructional purposes, a five-year strategic plan was developed in 1991. Phase One provided increased access to state-of-the-art technology by upgrading computer labs, providing technology for research in our libraries and teacher workstations in the classrooms.

In the four years since the 1991 technology plan was adopted, we have increased access to technology in our classrooms on minimal basis with the current ratio being 1 computer for every fourteen students. In addition, we have

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provided teacher technology training in the form of teacher workshops which focused on the use of software, hardware and Internet use. These efforts while successful within their scope, have resulted in limited access to technology in the classroom, and limited integration of technology in the curriculum. We recognize the need for greater access and more intensive staff development efforts if we are to achieve the broader use of telecommunications technology to achieve our vision of a classroom without walls.

Our district has experienced the difficulties of low student to computer ratios, outdated hardware and software, and lack of funding to obtain emerging technologies. The "affordability" barrier with technology is a challenging one, but we feel that access for students is critical to ensuring that our children are able to succeed in a high-tech marketplace. I encourage the Commission to adopt rules that will help bring the widest range of educational technologies to our schoolchildren.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary K. Malm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ms. Mary K. Malm
School Board President
Creighton Elementary School District No. 14

MKM/rsg
5/6/96